

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on  
Student Life**

**Held on May 11, 2001**

**AD 121 10:00am Loyola Campus**

**PRESENT:** Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Ms J. Calder, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Me P. Frégeau, Dr. S.M. Graub, Dr. J. Jans, Mr. T. Keefer, Mr. S. Nazzal, Ms T. Ryan, , Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. H. Zarins, Mr. J. Brisebois, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano, Mr. W Curran

**DELEGATES:** Ms A. Bowen represented Ms K. Hedrich

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Ms J. Fowler, Mr. A. Gagnon, Ms J. Raso, Ms L. Subai

**ABSENT:** Ms M. Hussein, Ms N. Sajani, Mr. C. Schulz, Mr. C. Dubois, Ms J. De Cubellis

**GUESTS:** Ms A. Ghadban, Mr. M. Golden, Mr. Z. Tiefenbach

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*A motion to approve the agenda was carried unanimously.*

**2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the April meeting had been cancelled, as quorum had not been met.

Dr. Boisvert took the opportunity to welcome Mr. Jean Brisebois, the new Director of Security, to Council and to congratulate Mr. Michael Golden, who was in attendance, on receiving a CCSL Outstanding Contribution to Student Life Award.

Dr. Boisvert explained that as the Student Services Mission Statement was approximately 10 years old, he felt it would be beneficial to revisit the statement at this time. To this end, invitations will be sent out shortly to all Student Services staff, CCSL membership and student leaders to partake in a professional development day on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2001**

*A motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously*

#### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **4.1 Revised Poster Policy**

As this item has been on the agenda for some time, Dr. Boisvert suggested that the final adjustments to the policy be worked out between his office and the CSU. As Council had no objection, Dr. Boisvert confirmed that this item would be removed from the CCSL agenda.

##### **4.2 CSU Response to the University Draft Policy on Demonstrations**

Mr. Keefer confirmed that the CSU Council had endorsed the recommendations in the CSU document tabled at CCSL in December 2000. Dr. Boisvert said he would ask the Office of the Vice Rector Services, in light of the CSU official response, to review the university's draft policy again.

#### **5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Dr. Boisvert explained that the CCSL Reports for Dean of Students, Advocacy & Support Services, Counselling & Development, Financial Aid & Awards and Health Services had been previously distributed via email. However Recreation & Athletics has been distributed at the meeting. After the Directors spoke briefly about their respective reports, he asked for questions from Council.

Ms Ryan asked if there were any statistics on the distribution of graduate awards. As Graduate Awards is under the jurisdiction of Graduate Studies, Dr. Jans replied that the awards are normally based on merit. \$750,000 was awarded this year and \$900,000 is expected to be awarded next year. He explained that some new awards would be available which will be based on both financial need and academics. He added that the needs assessment will be worked out in partnership with the Financial Aid & Awards Office.

Dr. Shaver asked if an independent student was eligible for financial aid. Mr. Côté explained that as a student must be in a program of study and be full-time to receive aid, independent students **normally** do not qualify. However, eligibility requirements may vary from province to province. For instance, at Concordia the definition of a full-time student is a student registered for 24 credits or more spread over the fall and winter terms. However, the Quebec government defines full-time as 12 credits per term which can create problems for students.



Dr. Boisvert asked Ms Drew to elaborate on the Health Services' pilot project with Marianopolis College. Ms Drew explained the project was an initiative of Ms Beth Morey, Director of Student Services at Marianopolis and herself. The purpose of the project is to provide non-emergency care to Marianopolis students on a fee-for-service basis paid by Marianopolis. She explained that as CEGEP students are usually under 20 years of age, the issues they are facing might be overwhelming for them. These students may not feel comfortable discussing STD testing, pregnancy counselling, safe sex or mental health problems with a family doctor. Concordia Health Services offers professional, confidential care from supportive and knowledgeable staff. To date Health Services has had 26 student visits. Ms. Drew reiterated that this service would in no way impact negatively on the services provided for Concordia students. Dr. Boisvert added that this project benefits the community and is a good outreach program.

With respect to the Student Advocate program under Advocacy & Support Services, Mr. Nazzal asked if there were statistics available showing usage of the service by faculty. Me Frégeau agreed to send this information to Mr. Nazzal. However, he explained that these statistics are based only on the students who come to Advocacy for assistance and may not be representative of the community.

Dr. Shaver took the opportunity to thank the Advocacy office for the advocate program. She explained that some students who are facing sanctions are given a choice of doing community service instead of a fine, etc. She asked departments to contact her office if they felt they have a job or project that might be suitable. Mr. Keefer suggested that perhaps students could "break bricks" for the university for the building expansion. Dr. Shaver responded that although she was not sure his suggestion was made in good faith, she felt perhaps that he did not understand the intent of the program. Dr. Shaver explained that when in certain circumstances students were not able to pay the fine or take extra credits, they were offered the option to do community work for a specified amount of time as their sanction. Not only were new skills learned, but in some cases these jobs led to further employment for the students. These "sanctions" often proved beneficial to the students in the long run as well as assisting the community.

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the Student Advocate Program would be one of the services that would be assessed in the next year. Information concerning this assessment will be tabled at CCSL in the Fall.

Dr. Boisvert pointed out that attached to the Dean of Students Report was a list of the associations/groups that had been awarded funding by CCSL Special Projects or the CCSL Student Initiated Project Funding Committee. He felt it was important to note that on both committees it was ultimately the students who made the decisions concerning the allocations to the various associations or projects.

## **5.2 Art Matters**

Dr. Boisvert explained that Art Matters and People's Potato, two of the associations funded by Student Initiated Projects, had been invited to make a short presentation.

Mr. Michael Golden, as one of the project coordinators for Art Matters, spoke proudly about the project. He drew Council's attention to the distributed report and budget reconciliation. The project was a two week Fine Arts extravaganza featuring student projects and collaborations from all the fine arts departments including performance in music, theatre, dance, photography, installations, art history, sculpture, film, as well as workshops and guest speakers. The festival was a success. Mr. Golden was proud of the fact that the students took the project to heart. The festival was completely organized and run by students. He pointed out that the amount of \$15,250 awarded by CCSL Student Initiated Projects was allocated in total to student projects. It was important to note that students did not receive a salary or honorarium to work on the projects. He noted that in the past the logistics of a two-campus operation was problematic for fine arts students to feel any sense of solidarity. This festival brought the two campuses together for the first time in a joint venture. He hopes it will be an annual event; something both the fine art students and the university can take pride in.

## **5.3 People's Potato**

Mr. Zev Tiefenbach, one of the coordinators of the People's Potato spoke enthusiastically about this project. He said that the report and budget submitted to Council was the semi-annual report from January. The next report is due only for June which was too late for the CCSL meeting. He explained that the People's Potato is a pay-what-you-can, vegetarian lunch served daily in the basement of Reggie's. The goal is to provide students with quality nourishment. He estimated that approximately 50,000 meals were served for this academic year at an average cost of \$2.49 per meal. Although official statistics were not taken, Mr. Tiefenbach felt sure the majority (90%) were part of the Concordia community. He noted that the major funding for this project was the \$45,000 awarded by the CCSL Student Initiated Projects Committee. To defray costs for the coming



years, a \$0.25 per credit fee was approved at a student referendum and will be instituted for the coming year. He also confirmed that he is working with the Office of the Vice-Rector, Services to secure space for the service for the next 6 years. Although in the past, the People's Potato was a part of the CSU, the service now falls under the jurisdiction of the Frigo Vert. As the only project of this kind in Canada, Mr. Tiefenbach said he has been approached by various Canadian universities for information or assistance on how to set up a similar service.

Mr. Côté expressed concern that official statistics on usage should be recorded in order to have a clear picture of who is being assisted and how the service can best suit their needs. He felt this could also be completed without compromising the issue of confidentiality. Mr. Tiefenbach thought it might be beneficial to meet with Mr. Côté to further discuss this idea.

Dr. Boisvert thanked both Mr. Golden and Mr. Tiefenbach for their presentations. He felt that both these student projects were something Concordia could be proud of and congratulated the students on their initiative in enhancing the quality of student life on campus.

## **6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES**

Ms Calder asked for clarification on the raise in tuition for International Students. She also asked if these students had been notified in advance of the increase in tuition. Me. Frégeau informed Council that the Board of Governors had passed a fee increase for International Students in the John Molson School of Business. Dr. Shaver asked if there was a "grand-father" clause in place for returning students. Me. Frégeau offered to follow-up on this issue to see how notification for the fee increase had been processed.

Mr. Keefer said it was important for students to stand together against the government and the university on the issue of tuition increase. He said that the both the university and the government were guilty of recruiting international students just for their money without any regard for their welfare.

Mr. Golden informed Council that if departments have need of student artists or musicians, there was a large database available through Art Matters.

Mr. Keefer said that that several students, including himself, have been charged under the Office of Rights and Responsibilities regarding the incident at the CSIS and Armed Forces Tables during the Arts & Science Career Days organized by Counselling & Development. The hearing is

scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in H 762. He invited CCSL to attend what he referred to as a “kangaroo” court.

Dr. Jans asked that a vote of thanks be made for Ms Tiffany Ryan, for her four years of service on CCSL both as an undergraduate student and a graduate student. Dr. Boisvert congratulated Ms Ryan and thanked her for her important contribution to student life.

#### **7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD**

Mr. Côté had nothing to report at this time.

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

#### **9. NEXT MEETING: Fall 2001 - TBA**

#### **10. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Calder and seconded by Dr. Jans.

*The Motion was carried unanimously*